The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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PRESIDENT IS AGAINST "CLEANING UP" EUROPE

Washington, Nov. 16.—The noisy and influential element in this country that urged an invasion of Mexico, two years ago, to "clean up and establish law and order," will be again confronted by the same White House opposition if they favor this course in Germany.

In an address to congress, in which he stated the armistice terms, President Wilson gave notice that he did not favor mixing in the internal affairs of the Teuton nation, now in the throes of revolution. He expressed the hope that these peoples would "choose the way of self control and peaceful accomodation."

"If they do," he said, "we will put our aid at their disposal in every way that we can. If they do not, we must await with patience and sympathy the awakening and recovery that will assuredly come at last.

"The humane temper and intention of the victorious governments has already been manifested in a very practical way. Their representatives in the supreme war council at Versailles have by unanimous resolution assured the peoples of the central empires that everything that is possible in the circumstances will be done to supply them with food and relieve the distressing want that is in so many places threatening their very lives; and steps are to be taken immediately to organize these efforts at relief in the same systematic manner that they were organized in the case of Belgium. By the use of the idle tonnage of the central empires it ought presently to be possible to lift the fear of utter misery from their oppressed populations and set their minds and energies free for the great and hazardous tasks of political reconstruction which now face them on every hand. Hunger does not breed reform; it breeds madness and all the ugly distempers that make an ordered life impossible."

WOMEN TAXI DRIVERS.

Indianapolis, Nov. 16.—The thought of having a modest, clean, good-living young woman employed as a taxi driver is nauseating, declares President Tobin of the Brotherhood of Teamsters, writing in the official journal of that organization.

This is one of the cloaks, the trade unionist says, that is used by unscrupulous employers to cheapen wages, prolong hours of labor and destroy trade unionism.

President Tobin does not favor the endorsement of legislation that would lay the brotherhood open to the charge that it opposes the employment of women or is against equal rights, "but," he says, "there is a line of demarcation that must be drawn."

"We are strongly opposed to any system in our country that would bring girls or women into employments that are not suited to them morally and physically. The future welfare of the nation depends upon safeguarding the race, and we believe that we are not doing so by allowing women to engage in manual labor which is too much for the strength of the ordinary man."

PRICE TENDENCY UPWARD.

Washington, Nov. 16.—The government's policy of price fixing during the war has received an indirect indorsement by the federal reserve board, which states that "prices generally throughout the United States are showing a tendency toward a further upward movement," and that increases are particularly noticeable in commodity lines not affected by the government's price-fixing program.

Rising prices and credit inflation, the board says, must be opposed by strictly personal economy. Despite war economy propaganda, it appears, says the board, "that many classes of the population are still spending their current incomes as freely as ever, notwithstanding prices today are at a record figure, because they have not yet embraced the national duty to save as a personal obligation."

WOMEN ON WAR BOARD.

Washington, Nov. 16.—In reply to requests that it include women in its membership, the national war labor board replies that while it is desirous of protecting in every possible way the interests of the many women workers whose cases come before it, "it has referred the question to the two organizations, the national industrial conference board (employers) and the A. F. of L., which nominated its original members."

The board takes the position that it is a representative body without power to enlarge its membership. This power, it believes, belongs to the nominating organizations.

GET WAGE INCREASE.

Pottsville, Pa., Nov. 16.—Employes of the Philadelphia & Reading Coal and Iron company who were not included in the recent order of the federal fuel administration increasing miners' wages will be given substantial wage increases.

The 600 men at the company's repair shops here are notified that eight hours instead of nine will constitute a day's work and most of the workers are given 20 per cent advances. A conference of employes and the management made these gains possible.

CO-OP. BUYING PLANNED.

San Francisco, Nov. 16.—To perfect a co-operative movement that will reduce living costs, plans are being discussed by representatives of the California state federation of labor, the local trade union movement, the California co-operative societies and several women's civic organizations. The prospective co-ops. are going slow with their venture that the chance for mistakes may be minimized.

U. S. BUYS OVERCOATS.

Washington, Nov. 16.—Contracts for making 1,380,000 service overcoats for this country's soldiers in Europe has been awarded by the government to clothing manufacturers in various parts of the country. Contracts for 851,000 leather jerkins to cost $3,763,400 have also been let.

BAKERS RAISE WAGES.

New York, Nov. 16.—Hundreds of employing bakers are accepting the new wage scale of their employes. The contract calls for a weekly advance of $6, and recognition of the union.

COMPENSATION LAWS ARE OF RECENT DATE

Washington, Nov. 16.—The first permanent state compensation laws were enacted by Washington and Kansas on March 14, 1911, says the United States bureau of labor statistics in bulletin No. 230, which is a complete history and exhaustive explanation of the various theories of workmen's compensation now in operation in this country.

Washington and Kansas were the first to pass permanent legislation of this character, but the Wisconsin law was the first to become effective, May 3, 1911, the date of its passage. Since then 37 states and three territories have passed these laws while the federal law has been amended to include all civil employes.

Prior to 1911 several states had enacted workmen's compensation laws, which were declared unconstitutional. The first legislation in the United States providing for stated benefits payable without suit or proof of negligence was the cooperative law of Maryland, which applied to mining, quarrying, railways and municipal construction work. This law was held to deprive parties of the right of trial by jury.

No two compensation laws are alike. A number of provisions have been adopted quite uniformly by nearly all the states, and those of certain states have been taken as models by others.

In only two states (Hawaii and New Jersey) is agriculture included, and domestic service is exempted in all but one state (New Jersey).

The reason for the almost universal exclusion of agriculture in the United States, the bulletin says, can hardly lie in the fact of its non-hazardous character. European experience, combined with available accident statistics in this country, proves quite conclusively that agriculture is a highly hazardous employment. The belief is expressed that the opposition of the farming element explains the exclusion in 38 states of agricultural laborers from the benefits of compensation acts.

It is stated that probably no phase of workmen's compensation has created more ill feeling than the question of free choice of physicians. In presenting the worker's side of this question the bulletin says the injured man has most at stake.

"It is he, and not the employer, or physician, who suffers; it is his life that hangs in the balance. A man desires a doctor whom he knows, with whom he can freely and unreservedly discuss his ailment, and in whom he has confidence.

"The theory that it is cheaper for the employer to furnish unlimited medical and hospital service on the ground that it reduces compensation costs by an early restoration of earning power has not been universally accepted by employers and insurers. Only four of the 40 states provide for unlimited medical service."

673 CASES BEFORE BOARD.

Washington, Nov. 16.—The national war labor board announces that since its inception last April it has made awards and otherwise disposed of 358 industrial disputes in war industries and industries essential to war production. On November 1 there were 315 cases awaiting settlement. In 69 cases hearings were had for the collection of evidence upon which awards were made. Fifty cases have been dropped or suspended, mainly for failure of complainants to urge their case. In 17 cases the board did not take jurisdiction. Thirty-three of the cases were settled between the contestants after one of the parties had sought the board's aid. Four cases were withdrawn and 177 were referred for settlement to other departments of the government, under rules of the board. In all, 673 cases were filed with the board between April 1 and November 1.

NO QUICK PRICE DROP.

Washington, Nov. 16.—Immediate dropping of food prices as a result of peace cannot be expected, said Food Administrator Hoover in a statement which added that while the prices of some food stuffs will decrease others may increase.

"With the war effectively over," he said, "we enter a new economic era and its effect on prices is difficult to anticipate. The prices of some food commodities may increase, but others will decrease, because with liberated shipping accumulated stocks in the southern hemisphere and the far east will be available. The demands upon the United States will change in character but not in volume."

SKIMP LUMBER ORDERS.

New York, Nov. 16.—The government has arrested 14 officials and employes of the Coastwise Lumber company, who are charged with conspiring to defraud the government by delivering shipments of lumber far short of the specified amounts. One of the charges is that an air plane factory received a grade of pine that would have endangered the lives of aviators. It is stated that one shipment of timber, said to contain 450,000 feet, was shipped in a vessel which cannot possibly carry more than 125,000 feet.

NEW BUILDINGS PLANNED.

New York, Nov. 16.—Builders in this city are waiting to proceed with $200,000,000 home construction. Hearings before the building committee of the state council of national defense and the mayor's committee showed that home construction to this amount is contemplated. The projects include one-family houses and large apartment houses. About one-third of the money will be used for the latter type of dwelling.

TRY TO DODGE AWARD.

San Antonio, Tex., Nov. 16.—Employing bakers have been defeated in their attempt to dodge a wage award made by a mediator that was acceptable to both parties. On the date the award was to become effective the employers camouflaged their opposition by a cloud of incidentials, and then suggested that the case be reopened. The reply of the Bakers' union sounded like a man saying "nothing doing."

CAN'T EJECT SHIP WORKERS.

Seattle, Nov. 16.—Judge Hall of the superior court has ruled that no ship yard worker can be ejected from the house he lives in until he has had an opportunity to present his case to the government fair rents commission.

LAND ISSUE VITALIZED BY CABINET OFFICIAL

Washington, Nov. 16.—Secretary of the Interior Lane has initiated a most important after-war measure—the reorganization of American agricultural life through the installation of a system for the placing of returning soldiers upon the farm.

The plan contemplates the establishment of approximately a million homes and farms for returning soldiers and sailors who desire to take advantage of the proposition. It is proposed that upon the valuation of this property the soldier will be required to pay not more than 1 or 1½ per cent until he, through his own initiative, has reclaimed the property by payments to the government, extending over a long period.

Secretary Lane also advocates the installation of community-plan schemes which will make it possible for the economic development and the scientific operation of the farm. An expert director in agriculture, fruit growing and stock raising will be assigned to a given area, who will disseminate practical information to the farm occupants. It is proposed that the states shall provide the lands in addition to the governmental domains, and the government is to build the houses, roads and all essentials necessary for successful agricultural operation.

The senate committee on public lands has reported favorably a bill to make an appropriation to survey and classify all unentered lands of the United States and other unused lands with a view to disposing of them in line with the ideas advocated by Secretary Lane.

This far-reaching economic scheme means much, Secretary Lane insists, for the future stability of our country. His advocacy of such a meritorious and humanitarian undertaking is unquestionably largely the result of his life-long association with the International Typographical union and his honorary membership and association with the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union.

AIR CRAFT WORKERS LOYAL.

Washington, Nov. 16.—Charges in the public press several months ago that workers in air craft production were practising various forms of sabotage are not sustained by the report of former United States Supreme Court Justice Hughes, who has conducted a five-months' inquiry on air craft production.

"That a campaign of slander against the workers to conceal incompetence, mismanagement and waste is evident from Mr. Hughes' findings that any destruction of property "could" be fairly attributed to carelessness and evidence of intent was wanting."

In transmitting the report to the president, United States Attorney General Gregory said:

"I have had the records of the department of justice examined for the purpose of ascertaining the number of substantial complaints of sabotage in the factories engaged in manufacturing air craft, motors or parts for the government. The results show 12 such complaints. Upon these complaints and the investigations which followed seven men have been indicted, two of whom have pleaded guilty and five of whom are awaiting trial. In this connection it is interesting to note that during the past 18 months somewhere between 100,000 and 200,000 laborers have been engaged on government work in the factories indicated."

EASTLAND VICTIMS LOSE.

Washington, Nov. 16.—The United States supreme court upholds a decision by a federal court in Chicago that a claim of $34,500 for raising the steamer Eastland, which sunk in the Chicago river three years ago and destroyed the lives of over 800 excursionists, is a preferred claim. The supreme court's decision destroys any hope that relatives of the victims can secure damages, as the towing company's claim and other expenses will wipe out the $46,000 for which the boat was recently sold.

The Eastland was built for freight purposes, but later was placed in the excursion business. Chicago trade unionists warned authorities of the danger of an accident, because the vessel was top heavy and "listed" dangerously when her decks were crowded. These warnings were unheeded and on July 24, 1915, the boat rolled over while tied to the dock. She was loaded with 3,000 excursionists at the time.

TO DISCUSS WAGE AWARDS.

London, Nov. 16.—The government has appointed a committee, which includes trade unionists and employers, to make recommendations on the following questions:

Whether the compulsory wage awards made under the munitions of war acts, and of orders regulating wages made under those acts, should be continued after the war.

Whether the power to make such awards or orders should be continued after the war.

In what manner should awards and orders if made or continued be enforced after the war and for what period.

STEEL WORKERS UNITE.

Pueblo, Col., Nov. 16.—Rockefeller's "union" has no attraction for nail and wire workers employed by his subsidiary Colorado Fuel and Iron company and they have organized a trade union chartered by the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

Kokomo, Ind., Nov. 16.—Rod mill workers in this city have united and received a charter from the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

GOOD NEWS, IF TRUE.

New York, Nov. 16.—Some business men are expressing the view that the financial and material resources of the world have been vastly underestimated and that they may prove surprisingly large during the reconstruction period.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

New York, Nov. 16.—A strike of several thousand teamsters that lasted but a few hours resulted in an eight-hour day and a wage increase of $3 a week. These workers are affiliated with the Brotherhood of Teamsters and Chauffeurs.

FIREMEN RAISE WAGES.

Wheeling, W. Va., Nov. 16.—Stationary Firemen's union No. 21 has raised wages 3 cents an hour for its members employed by the city, the electric light company and street car companies.

SOCIAL INSURANCE DISCUSSED IN OHIO

Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 16.—The Ohio health and old age insurance commission has issued a preliminary statement for consideration at public hearings on these subjects to be held by the commission. The commission was created by the state legislature to investigate these subjects and include in its membership Secretary-Treasurer Donnelly and Vice President Chapman of the state federation of labor.

The commission is agreed that sickness entails serious and disastrous effects upon great numbers of the people and causes physical deterioration and economic dependence. Whether action should be taken by the state to provide universal compulsory health insurance depends primarily upon whether the problem is being met, or can be met, satisfactorily by existing agencies of insurance.

On the question of sick insurance costs, it is stated that "in all countries the insurance is borne in varying proportions by the employes, employers and the state. This is a recognition that to some degree each is responsible for sickness and should therefore pay part of the cost."

The commission calls attention to a plan suggested to it that the burden of insurance for certain specific diseases which are more strictly community diseases be borne by the state and the community, and not by the individual.

"The spread of such diseases as tuberculosis, small pox, diphtheria, etc., are chargeable largely to the laxness of the community," it is stated. "In such cases, under the proposal made, the state would provide insurance for all of its citizens against such diseases and any city or local community which had an excess of such disease would pay for that excess."

The commission says it is considering the argument that responsibility for disease is not the only standard in apportioning the cost, and that the benefits derived must also be considered. The individual benefits, of course, for a part of his former burdens will be borne by others; the employer benefits because of the greater stability of employment and the better physical and mental condition of the employes, and the state benefits in the lessening of poverty and in the greater stability of society.

In discussing old age pensions it is shown that the proportion of persons in this state over 65 years of age has increased from 4 per cent in 1880 to an estimated 5.8 per cent in 1918.

The commission expresses the belief that nearly $10,000,000 is expended annually by local and state public charities, and a large part of this, probably more than half, is on account of care for the aged. The amount expended by private organized charities for the care of the aged and for all relief and social work amounts to several million dollars annually, but the approximate amount is not available at this time.

FORMER TYPO IS GRATEFUL.

San Francisco, Nov. 16.—Officers of Typographical union No. 21 have received this letter from Fresno, Cal.:

"Some time in January or February, 1896, San Francisco Typographical union gave $20 to each member of the union who was thrown out of work by the introduction of the machines, should they leave the city. I was one of those who accepted this money, and I can assure you it was a great help to me. Since locating here I have established a good business and am doing fine, and I thought best to return the money so generously given me at that time. I am enclosing my check for $20, and if you know of any one who is in need kindly give it to him. With many thanks for the assistance given me at that time, and with best wishes for all the boys, from one of the old timers. Schuyler C. Longwell, slug 30 on the Chronicle, '87 to '96."

SET INJUNCTION ASIDE.

Cincinnati, Nov. 16.—Bungling attorneys employed by the Niles tool works, Hamilton, Ohio, made it possible for the circuit court of appeals to set aside an injunction secured by this concern against its striking iron molders.

The Niles tool works is the popular name of the plant, and the company's attorneys used this term instead of the Niles-Bemont-Pond company.

The iron molders suspended work in May, 1917, to compel the reinstatement of a discharged committeeman. The men returned to work in July on the promise of the company to accord justice, but this promise was immediately broken and five days later the men struck again.

HUGE LABOR TURN OVER.

Washington, Nov. 16.—In his report to the attorney general on a five-months' investigation of air craft production, former United States Supreme Court Justice Hughes says that at the Packard company's plant the labor turnover is from 400 to 600 per cent a year, which means 40,000 to 60,000 coming and going in order to hold an organization of 10,000 to 11,000. The larger portion of this "floating," he said, occurs among probably 4,000 to 5,000 men, and that in some departments there has been a complete change about 15 times a year.

MOTORMAN WAS "GREEN."

New York, Nov. 16.—At the investigation of the cause of the disaster on the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company's lines, which killed and injured nearly 200 passengers, a company official testified that the motorman who handled the train received only two and one-half hours' instruction.

The train was in charge of the "green" motorman, following a strike because the company refused to accept an award of the national war labor board reinstating 29 unionists.

ORGANIZE UNION PACIFIC.

Salt Lake City, Nov. 16.—Railroad shop men employed by the Union Pacific railroad will convene in this city December 9 for the purpose of organizing a system federation affiliated with the railway employes' department A. F. of L.

STOVE MOUNTERS GAIN.

Philadelphia, Nov. 16.—Stove Mounters' union No. 6 has raised wages 40 per cent in basic prices, with the day rate advanced to $5 a day. Working conditions are also improved.

READJUSTMENT PLANS TO BE APPLIED SLOWLY

Washington, Nov. 16.—Chairman Baruch of the war industries board has authorized the statement that the end of the war will not result in immediate cancellation of war supply contracts, but that contracts will be cancelled gradually as requirements are reduced, making it possible to lift curtailments and restrictions upon ordinary industrial activities. He said:

"As the demand for raw materials is lessened by the reduction of war requirements and the cancellation of war contracts if, and when such cancellations be made, the raw materials so made available will be released and allocated by the war industries board, for use in supplying civilian and export demands which through curtailment have been held in check during the war. In addition to the ordinary commercial requirements, there will be a heavy flow of materials thus released to supply the demand for the great reconstructional work required by the European countries.

"At the same time there is to be a gradual lifting of the restrictions and curtailments that have been imposed upon industry by the exigency of the war so as to allow as promptly as possible free flow of all supplies into peace channels.

"The war industries board will continue to exercise its functions until the peace treaty is signed to the end that the readjustment of the matters on which it has been acting may be made in as orderly a manner as possible.

"A committee named by the president has been and is now at work to devise the best mechanism of bringing about the adjustments from a war to a peace basis. The report of the committee may take the form of suggested legislation.

"The whole effect of the readjustment plans will be to the end of bringing about necessary changes with as little dislocation as possible and the full opportunity for all to benefit as in the past by individual ingenuity, vision and fair dealing."

NO STATE ARBITRATION.

Wellington, New Zealand, Nov. 16.—Rather than face a strike coal operators have accepted the demand of the Miners' Federation that all differences shall be settled by machinery set up by the two parties and not refer the matter to the state arbitration court.

The new agreement provides that disputes shall be first referred to the union's executive and the management of the affected mine, then to a district disputes committee, consisting of three representatives of employers and employed and then to the national disputes committee, which shall consist of three representatives appointed by the mine owners and an equal number appointed by the New Zealand Miners' Federation. The decision of the latter board shall be final.

Wages have been increased and the union is recognized. These three demands were first refused by the coal owners. The decision to settle disputes themselves means that the arbitration system maintained by the government will no longer be taken advantage of by the New Zealand coal industry.

BIG OIL EARNINGS.

New York, Nov. 16.—Reports by the Sinclair Oil and Refining company show that despite increased federal taxes, present and prospective, profits continue upward. Net earnings during the last quarter was $4,701,709, compared with $4,407,661 in the previous quarter and $1,985,440 in the first quarter of the year.

The amount set aside for federal taxes, in anticipation of the proposed increase in taxation, was almost doubled, so that after taxes and all other fixed charges, and after setting aside $1,064,389 as reserve for depletions and depreciation, the balance carried to surplus was $2,418,542, as compared with $561,262 in the quarter ending last March.

The report shows that the profits have prepared the company to meet any tax congress may levy without disturbing dividends and a surplus undreamed of before the war.

R. R. UNIONS RECOGNIZED.

Pittsburg, Pa., Nov. 16.—As a result of a meeting of Pennsylvania railroad officials and general chairmen of all shop crafts on that system, the general chairman of the system, federation and each chairman of the six affiliated crafts have been granted leave of absence, annual transportation and the right extended to represent the members of their respective crafts over the entire system.

Before this railroad system was taken over by the government it was antagonistic to the trade union movement.

EMPLOYER BREAKS WORD.

Centralia, Wash., Nov. 16.—Because the Centralia Coal company violated its promise regarding working conditions to its organized mine workers, these employes closed down the property by refusing to work. The miners' agreement for the use of dynamite was disregarded by the company ordering that nothing should be used but black powder, which reduced the output and also the wages. The company's refusal to pay regularly was another cause for the strike.

COMPENSATION AWARD.

Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 16.—A miner who hurts himself in an effort to shut off the current from a mining machine, when a cable slips, in order to prevent an accident or replace a part of the appliance, is held to be entitled to compensation by the state compensation board. The board rules that this is "an untoward event which is not to be expected."

SWITCHMEN UNITE.

Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 16.—Officers of the Switchmen's union report that locals have been formed in the following places during the last month: Benton Harbor and Grayling, Mich.; Sand Springs, Okla.; Proctor, Minn.; Wichita Falls, Tex., and Hutchinson, Kan.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Bloomington, Ill., Nov. 16.—The annual convention of the Illinois state federation of labor, which was postponed on account of the "flu" epidemic, will be held in this city December 2.

WORKERS' PROBLEMS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Washington, Nov. 16.—Labor problems are to be brought before school children this winter by the United State bureau of education, which is issuing a series of pamphlet courses for the schools. Among the pamphlets are such subjects as "War Labor Administration," "Employment Agencies," "Employment Management," "The Worker in Our Society," "Women in Industry," "Child Labor" and "The Human Resources of a Community."

The lessons for the upper classes in the high schools discuss topics more advanced than those for lower high school and upper-graded school pupils, while still more elementary subjects are provided for the intermediate grades of the grammar schools.

In the high school lesson on the worker and the wage system is discussed the rise of the wage system, which is shown to be of comparatively modern development, with its result—leaving the worker dependent on the employer for hire in a speculative society.

The classes of risks that employes are subject to are described, with their consequences in the way of insecurity for the worker. The influence of accidents, disease and fatigue, and the weak bargaining position of the workmen, are presented.

The aim of the lesson is to stimulate constructive thought on the problems of the wage worker.

MADE DEFECTIVE SHELLS.

Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 16.—Sensational testimony was submitted by the government in the case of Wm. J. Oliver, who is charged with making defective shells for the military forces overseas. Witnesses stated that fraudulent test plugs had been taken and the pieces hidden from government inspectors.

One worker testified that he was ordered to drill steel shells and that they were later filled with lead, and that fake test plugs were put through the annealing furnace with the admonition, "Don't let the government inspector see it, boys."

Since Oliver's arrest he is whimpering that labor unions are responsible for his troubles. During a strike at this plant several months ago Organizer Gilmore, of the Machinists' union, was assaulted by gunmen and received injuries that indirectly brought on his death. Since then organized labor has gained a foothold in this establishment and Oliver is trying to create the impression that hard-headed government officials are hypnotized by fairy tales that a respectable citizen would be so wicked as to sabotage the government.

URGE COMPENSATION LAW.

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 16.—A committee representing the Missouri state federation of labor is conducting an educational campaign in the interest of a proposed compensation law.

The law is elective and not compulsory, but both employer and employe are presumed to have elected to accept it unless they file written rejections with the commission. If both accept the law, the employer is liable irrespective of negligence for personal injury or death of the employe by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, except when the employe has deliberately injured himself. The employer must pay the benefits provided in the law and is released from all other liability. If the employer rejects the law he is liable for negligence at common law and is deprived of the defenses of contributory negligence, fellow servant and assumed risk, whether or not the employe has accepted the law. If the employer accepts the law and the employe rejects it, the employer is liable in negligence and retains his defenses.

MUCH COAL SAVED.

Washington, Nov. 16.—Manufacturers in this country have saved 2,500,000 tons of coal in six months without lowering efficiency, according to a statement issued by the national fuel administration. This saving was made possible by accepting recommendations by the fuel administration.

"Some industrial plants which have adopted the standard recommendations and kept systematic records," it is stated, "report a fuel saving as high as 25 per cent and the average is estimated between 10 and 15 per cent. This large economy is effected at practically no expense to the plant owner, since the recommendations treat primarily of proper methods of firing and management in power plants."

ENGLAND TALKS HOUSING.

London, England, Nov. 16.—Friends of housing reform defeated a plan in the house of commons to postpone the second reading of the housing bill, which provides for treasury assistance where county councils are unable to finance the building of homes for workers. In urging the bill Hayes Fisher, president of the local government board, said this was the hinge of all social reform, and that "in the volume of reconstruction there was no chapter of greater importance to our race, both nationally and imperially, than the chapter dealing with housing reform."

OVERTIME ABANDONED.

Philadelphia, Nov. 16.—Rear Admiral Bowles has ordered the abandonment of all overtime and Sunday work in the ship yards along the Delaware river. The straight eight-hour day will be the rule hereafter. It is stated that at the big Hog island yard there is enough work to assure full time operation until the close of next year.

MAY HOLD RAILROADS.

Washington, Nov. 16.—Chairman Daniels of the interstate commerce commission predicted in an address here that the railroads will be either operated under entire government control or private management with government supervision of financing and the elimination of competitive waste.

FIRST WOMAN LAWMAKER.

New York, Nov. 16.—Mrs. Ida B. Sammis of Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, has been elected to the state assembly. She is the first woman member of the New York state legislature.

COOPERS ORGANIZE.

Kansas City, Kan., Nov. 16.—Officers of the Coopers' International union report that locals have been formed in this city and Green Bay and Menasha, Wis.

WAR LORDS HUMBLED BY ARMISTICE TERMS

Washington, Nov. 16.—The armistice signed by Kaiser William's representatives destroys the dreams of German war lords. From a military standpoint the document spells "unconditional surrender" in every line. The main points agreed to by Germany, and which make it impotent as a world military factor, are:

Immediate evacuation of Belgium, France, Alsace-Lorraine and Luxemburg, and German lands on the left or west bank of the Rhine. This includes many important cities, and some of Germany's great coal and metal deposits and some of its largest iron and steel manufacturing centers.

Retirement of German troops from territory which before the war beloged to Russia and Roumania.

All Black sea ports to be evacuated and all Russian vessels seized by Germany to be turned over to the allies.

Retirement of all German forces operating in East Africa.

The allies shall select from the German fleet six battle cruisers, 10 battleships, eight light cruisers, two mine layers and 50 destroyers, which shall be interned in ports designated by the allies. All other German war vessels shall be disarmed and concentrated in German naval bases under control of the allies.

Germany must surrender the following in good condition:

Five thousand guns (2,500 heavy and 2,500 field), 30,000 machine guns, 2,000 minenwerfer (mine throwers), 2,000 air planes, 5,000 locomotives, 150,000 railroad cars, 50,000 wagons, 10,000 motor lorries, all submarines (including all submarine cruisers and mine laying submarines) with their complete armament and equipment.

Abandonment of the treaties of Bucharest and Brest-Litovsk.

Germany also agrees to reparation for damages done and peaceably retire from the various countries without destroying property.

A supplementary declaration to the armistice guards the allies' interests if German revolutionists refuse to turn over the battle ships, cruisers, and other naval vessels. In that event the allies reserve the right to occupy Heligoland as an advance base to enable them to enforce the terms.

OUSTED FROM RICH ZONES.

Washington, Nov. 16.—The armistice not only cripples Germany from a military standpoint, but has supplemented this condition by economic restrictions. In the east fertile agricultural lands, captured from Russia and Roumania, are restored to those countries, and German soldiers must retire from East Africa.

In western Europe Germany loses valuable industries, priceless mineral lands and fortified cities. The allies will hold the territory between the Rhine and Germany's western boundary until new boundaries are settled at the peace table. The evacuated section includes about 20,000 square miles in extent, with a population of 9,000,000.

Alsace-Lorraine, which was wrested from the French in 1871, is included in this territory and is one of the richest units of the empire. It contains great iron ore deposits, which is one of the principal sources of Germany's supply for the manufacture of war munitions. Its coal fields are extensive and its textile industries are among the most important in Germany. In this territory are the fortified cities of Metz, Strassburg and Mainz, which are among the principal fortresses of Germany.

REJECT COMPENSATION.

Phoenix, Ariz., Nov. 16.—Trade unionists in this state are jubilant over their success in defeating a proposed compensation amendment to the state constitution by an overwhelming vote. The plan was urged by mine operators and the American mining congress. It was combatted by organized workers who rallied to the support of the Arizona state federation of labor. In condemning the plan the state federation called on mine operators to withdraw their proposal and unite with the workers in drafting a satisfactory compensation law. This suggestion was ignored.

The mine owners' defeat has been most emphatic and the trade unionists again announce their willingness to join in a plan to expand the theory of workmen's compensation on the basis of approximate justice to those who are killed and injured in industry.

LIVING COSTS CLIMBING.

Washington, Nov. 16.—The United States bureau of labor statistics reports that retail prices of food have increased 2 per cent from June to July, this year.

For the one-year period July 15, 1917, to July 15, 1918, prices have advanced 15 per cent.

For the five-year period July 15, 1913, to July 15, 1918, all food combined showed a price increase of 69 per cent. Every article for which prices were secured jumped 50 per cent or over. Meal advanced 123 per cent, potatoes, 105 per cent; lard, 104 per cent, and flour, 103 per cent.

APPEAL FOR MOONEY FILED.

Washington, Nov. 16.—A petition asking for a review of the case of Thomas J. Mooney, now under sentence of death in California, was formally presented to the United States supreme court. In a brief filed by the state of California it is contended that Mooney had been granted a fair trial, denying his charge of perjured testimony and asserting that no federal questions are involved upon which would permit the case being appealed to the United States supreme court.

EMPLOYERS CARELESS.

Morgan, N. J., Nov. 16.—Charges of negligence and carelessness in the operation of the T. A. Gillespie shell loading plant at this place, which was destroyed by explosion on Oct. 5 with the direct loss of 64 lives and the indirect loss of many more, were made to the United States senate committee, which has been directed to make an investigation into the cause of the disaster.

ASK FOR BETTERMENTS.

San Diego, Cal., Nov. 16.—Butchers' union No. 229 has asked market proprietors for a 10-hour day with one hour off for lunch for all employes, except women workers, who shall have the eight-hour day the first five days of each week.

WATER MEN UNIONIZING.

San Francisco, Nov. 16.—Ferry boat firemen and men employed on the decks are being unionized.

U. S. LABOR ROUTED EUROPE'S PACIFISTS

—President Gompers.

Chicago, Nov. 16.—Labor in this country "stiffened the spine of labor in allied countries," and routed Europe's pacifists, declared President Gompers at a mass meeting held under the auspices of the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy as a recognition of his services to his country during the war.

It was President Gompers' first speech since his return from Europe as head of the American labor mission.

The meeting was attended by about 5,000 citizens, representing all walks of life.

Among the telegrams of greeting to President Gompers were words from President Wilson, members of the cabinet, former President Taft and a large number of governors, other public officials and private citizens. The president's telegram read:

"Please join my warm greetings and congratulations with those of the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy to Mr. Gompers on his return home from a most successful mission."

Frank P. Walsh of the national war labor board acted as chairman. Mr. Walsh paid a warm tribute to President Gompers and the labor movement and then introduced James Duncan, first vice president of the A. F. of L., who welcomed Mr. Gompers home in the name of organized labor.

After reviewing the causes of the war, the A. F. of L. executive said:

"We had too often been described as the nation whose ideal was the dollar mark. Never in the history of the world has a people responded with such alacrity, with such earnestness and willingness to serve, and, if need be, die, than the people of our republic in this cause. And I am more proud in my righteous claim as an American today, after my return, after all I have seen, than ever before in my whole life.

"What little I have done," he said, "does not react to me, but to labor—American labor. And so I claim no credit for it. American labor advanced of its own momentum—its own importance. It advanced because it was nurtured in democracy.

"People overseas have not learned the meaning and practice of democracy. They have been so accustomed to pay tribute to a man or woman who, in theory or practice of government, was their ruler, that they have not learned the people are the might of the nation.

"I want to warn you, my fellow citizens, that unless the principles of democracy are practiced in our everyday life, as well as our national life, we shall, as sure as the sun rises and sets, lose the power of democracy because we have not used it, the greatest function of our lives."

LABOR'S ACTIVITY NOTICED.

London, England, Nov. 16.—In urging employers to organize, "The Employer," a publication started by the National Employers' Federation, says: "Labor has organized its forces not for the sake of organization, but for the sake of a program. Solidarity is nothing in itself, and the cause for it is solely the preliminary step to making the program effective. In labor's program we see clearly what is in labor's mind. We see a definite policy ranging over pretty well the whole of human activity from high politics to low wages, from questions of international statecraft, such as labor ambassadorships, special representation at the peace congress, prospective labor governments, to matters affecting the laborer in the smallest and most remote workshop. There may be rifts in labor's organization, crudeness and conceits in its ideas, but the ideas do only too patiently exist, and every day furnish fresh proof of the force and self-confidence with which they are projected upon the community."

UNIONISTS WILL CONTROL.

Bethlehem, Pa., Nov. 16.—Industrial politics has been seething at the Bethlehem steel works because of elections for shop delegates to a convention that will select three members from the employes to the Bethlehem board of conciliation, as outlined by the national war labor board.

The organized machinists have so far elected 115 shop delegates and the organized steel workers have elected about 50 delegates. With other union delegates, it is believed the organized workers will have a clear majority in the selection of the board of conciliation. In some departments full tickets were nominated against the trade unionists. This campaign, headed by a group of unorganized employes, was not discouraged by company officials and petty bosses.

STRIKE ENFORCES AWARD.

Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 16.—"Accept the award or face a strike" was the ultimatum presented to the local street car company by its organized motormen and conductors. The company quickly agreed to pay a wage award of the national war labor board. When the award was announced company officials assumed a "foxy" position, and stated that as the decision was made by a section of the board, it did not voice the entire membership. A wire from Washington and the men's solidity dispelled this illusion.

PAY BIG BENEFITS.

Detroit, Mich., Nov. 16.—During the past six months the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes have paid $179,593.37 in death benefits, $6,700 in disability benefits and $1,600 in old age benefits.

During this period 65 contracts have been renewed, 24 new contracts secured and 2,934 members enrolled. Officers of the association state that the membership growth is unequalled in its history.

ABOLISH SUNDAY WORK.

Washington, Nov. 16.—At a conference attended by the secretary of the navy, secretary of war and the chairman of the shipping board it was decided, in view of the armistice, to issue immediate directions to cut out all Sunday work and overtime in government-owned or controlled plants and plants producing war supplies.

$50,000,000 FOR ROADS.

Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 16.—This state has reversed its 1913 attitude by voting in favor of a $50,000,000 bond issue to build good roads. Five years ago the plan was defeated by 100,000 votes, and this year it is approved by over 100,000, a turnover of 200,000 votes.